

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

**ITEM 2**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING WASTEWATER TREATMENT UTILITIES' VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO MONITORING FOR COVID-19 IN WASTEWATER

**DISCUSSION**

Across the United States and the world, wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) has been implemented to quantify trends in COVID-19. WBE complements clinical testing and can detect the virus shed by both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. WBE also yields information several days sooner than it takes to collate individual testing and hospitalization records, respectively. Since early 2020, many wastewater treatment facilities across California have voluntarily sampled, and in some cases analyzed, their wastewater and biosolids for COVID-19. The proposed resolution recognizes the significant, voluntary contributions wastewater treatment utilities have made and continue to make to provide information on incidence of COVID-19 in communities across the state.

**POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board recognize wastewater treatment utilities for their voluntary contributions to wastewater-based epidemiology in California?

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the State Water Board adopt the resolution to formally recognize the contributions of wastewater treatment utilities to the wastewater-based epidemiology efforts in California.